

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS W

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, RO

SUBJECT: GOR ENTRY INTO "77" AND ITS NON-ALIGNED ASPIRATIONS

1. SUMMARY. WHILE PLEASED WITH ITS RECENT SUCCESS AT MANILA, GOR IS APPARENTLY WARY THAT OPPOSITION TO ITS NON-ALIGNED COLOMBO BID MAY NOW STIFFEN, WITH MAJOR DIFFICULTIES EXPECTED TO COME FROM INDIA, ALGERIA, ZAIRE AND CUBA, THE LATTER REPRESENTING
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SOVIET OBJECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. NEW NON-ALIGNED DIFFICULTIES? WHILE ROMANIAN PRESS GLOWED OVER ROMANIA'S "UNANIMOUS" ACCEPTANCE INTO GROUP OF 77 AT RECENT MANILA MINISTERIAL, IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFFS FEBRUARY 10, MARCEL DINU (DIRECTOR, MFA'S DIRECTORATE II-DEVELOPING COUNTRIES) TOOK MUCH MORE CAUTIOUS APPROACH TO SUBJECT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GOR'S BID FOR OBSERVER STATUS AT THIS YEAR'S COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT. DINU OBSERVED THAT "IN NORMAL TIMES" ROMANIA'S ENTRY INTO "77" WOULD BE A FAVORABLE OMEN FOR SIMILAR ACCEPTANCE BY NON-ALIGNED; HOWEVER, HE FEARED THAT MANILA SUCCESS MIGHT INSTEAD FURTHER STIMULATE "WELL-KNOWN" OPPOSITION TO THE GOR'S BID. FOR FIRST TIME IN A SERIES OF SUCH TALKS, HE WAS ALSO WILLING TO SPECIFICALLY RUN DOWN ANTICIPATED TROUBLESPOTS, STARTING WITH INDIA WHOSE FOREIGN MINISTER, REACTING TO A PAKISTANI STATEMENT ON SUBJECT, HAD RECENTLY REITERATED APPLICABILITY OF ORIGINAL CONCEPT OF NON-ALIGNMENT, WHICH EXCLUDED MEMBERS OF MILITARY PACTS. DINU REMARKED THAT WHILE QUESTION OF INDIAN-PAKISTANI DISPUTE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR ROMANIAN MEMBERSHIP IS NON-ALIGNED WAS ONE TO BE "HANDLED WITH CARE". HE FELT ALGERIAN ATTITUDE WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT HAPPENS IN SPANISH SAHARA AND IMPLIED THAT SOVIET SUPPORT OF ALGERIAN ASPIRATIONS THERE MIGHT HAVE ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES FOR GOR, I. E. ALGERIA MIGHT ACT UPON PRINCIPLE, "ENEMIES OF OUR FRIENDS (USSR) ARE OUR ENEMIES". FINALLY, DINU WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT LOSS OF PREVIOUS ZAIRE SUPPORT DUE TO RECENT CHANGES IN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND CONSEQUENCES OF ANGOLAN CONFLICT. QUESTIONED ABOUT HIS FAILURE TO MENTION CUBAN OPPOSITION, DINU SMILED AND REPLIED "I WAS ONLY SPEAKING OF DIFFICULTIES THAT MIGHT ARISE FROM WITHIN THE GROUP", CLEAR IMPLICATION BEING THAT CUBA WAS STALKING HORSE FOR OUTSIDE SOVIET NEGATIVITY.

3. "77" ENTRY. DINU SAID THAT PAST ADMITTANCE OF YUGOSLAVIA AS MEMBER OF ASIAN GROUP HAD ESTABLISHED PRECEDENT FOR ROMANIAN ENTRY AS PART OF LATIN AMERICAN GROUP, WHICH SEEMED MOST NATURAL DUE TO "CULTURAL AND LINGISTIC AFFINITIES". HE SAID ROMANIAN MEMBERSHIP HAD BEEN DISCUSSED AT CARACAS AND DJAKARTA GROUP MEETINGS PRIOR TO MANILA MINISTERIAL, BUT HAD HARDLY BEEN TOUCHED AT AFRICAN MEETING IN ALGIERS WHICH HAD CONCENTRATED ON SPANISH SAHARA QUESTION. AS A RESULT, MOST AFRICANS IN MANILA CAME UNINSTRUCTED ON MATTER AND SOMEWHAT CONFUSED OVER THE CONCEPT OF "NON-GEOGRAPHICAL" MEMBERSHIP, BUT THESE PROBLEMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD BEEN OVERCOME. (COMMENT: PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR HAD PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED THAT OPPOSITION TO ROMANIAN "77" MEMBERSHIP HAD BEEN CENTERED IN AFRICAN GROUP ON GROUNDS THAT BY ITS OWN ADMISSION GOR HOPED TO BE A DEVELOPED COUNTRY WITHIN 4-5 YEARS. ASKED ABOUT THIS LATTER POINT, DINU REMARKED THAT IT PERHAPS BETTER TO AWAIT RESULTS THAN TO PREDICT THEM AND IN ANY CASE IN 4-5 YEARS EVEN DEFINITIONS CHANGE, I.E. OF A DEVELOPING COUNTRY).

4. COMMENT. UNCHARACTERISTIC WARINESS SHOWN BY DINU, PARTICULARLY IN WAKE OF GOR'S SUCCESS AT MANILA, SEEMS TO INDICATE GOR DRIVE FOR NON-ALIGNED ASSOCIATION IS ENCOUNTERING COMPLICATIONS. ANGOLAN AND SPANISH SAHARA QUESTIONS HAVE APPARENTLY CREATED NEW PROBLEMS FOR GOR, WHILE OLD ONE OF INDIA-PAK RIVALRY HAS FLARED AGAIN. IN ADDITION SOVIET OPPOSITION SEEMS UNRELENTING. SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELOR, COMMENTING ON GOR "77" MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE AT BALKAN CONFERENCE, RECENTLY SNORTED "SOON THE ONLY GROUP THEY WON'T BE A MEMBER OF WILL BE NATO".
BARNES

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